

U.S. Serial No: 09/778,926

Art Unit: 1655

Examiner: Chakrabarti, Arun K.

AMENDMENT

In the specification:

Please amend the title as follows:

Typing and Diagnosis of Spongiform Encephalopathy

In the claims:

Please amend claims 1, 3, 4-6, 8-9, 10, 15, 16, and 26, and add claims 28-32 as noted on the attached sheet of paper. Please cancel claim 27 without prejudice. As required by 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c), the amended claims are rewritten with all changes included. In addition, as permitted under 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(3), a clean version of all the pending claims is submitted as a single amendment paper, which is attached to this response. Also attached is the marked-up copy of the claims, marked to show all of the changes relative to the previous version of the claims. As permitted under 37 C.F.R. 1.121(c), this marked-up version does not include the cancelled claims.

RESPONSE

Claims 1-10, 13-16, 26, and 27 were pending in the application. Claims 1-3, 13-15, 26, and 27 were rejected, and claims 4-10 and 16 were objected to. Claims 1-3, 5-6, 8, 9, 15, 16, and 26 are amended herein, and claim 27 is cancelled. New claims 28-32 are added. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is introduced by any of these amendments and request reconsideration of the application and amended claims in light of the following remarks. Claims 1-10, 13-16, 26, and 28-32 are currently pending.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 5, 15, 16, and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. Each of the rejections set forth in paragraph 3 of the Office Action is addressed in turn below.